
**GOVERNOR PARKINSON AND SECRETARY WERHOLTZ HONOR
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Governor Mark Parkinson and Kansas Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz honored Department of Corrections employees and volunteers Wednesday for their service to the State of Kansas during an awards ceremony held at the State Capitol.

In announcing the four recipients of the Department's 2009 Employee and Volunteer of the Year awards, Governor Parkinson thanked all Department employees for their commitment to ensuring public safety.

Governor Parkinson signed a proclamation earlier this month that designated the week of May 3-9, 2009 as Kansas Correctional Employees Week. The ceremony and proclamation honored correctional employees who work mostly outside the public's view yet who help every day to make Kansas safer. A copy of the proclamation follows.

Those receiving special recognition for Wednesday were:

- The 2009 Uniformed Employee of the Year - Lt. Maria Bos, a Corrections Specialist II from El Dorado Correctional Facility;
- The 2009 Non-Uniformed Employee of the Year - Harold Sass, an Information Consultant III from Lansing Correctional Facility;
- The 2009 Contract Employee of the Year - Officer Doug Mitchell, Wichita Police Department, who serves the Southern Parole Region; and,
- The 2009 Volunteer of the Year - Sharon Leiker who is a volunteer for Norton Correctional Facility.

Following the ceremony, Topeka State Senator Laura Kelly spoke at a luncheon hosted by Topeka Correctional Facility to recognize the 42 Employee and Volunteer of the Year Award nominees. Kelly, who worked in a minimum-security prison for boys in Illinois following her graduation from college, noted that correctional employees provide a service that is crucial to the state's well being.

"Kansas is a better place to live because of you," she said.

In his remarks, Secretary Werholtz acknowledged staff for their dedication to the Department's mission despite recent budget cuts and working with an inmate population that has more severe mental health needs and been sentenced for increasingly more violent crimes.

"You're the best at what you do," he said. "In the coming years, we're going to need that from you and more. Anything less puts your co-workers and the public at greater risk."

Nominees honored during the luncheon were:

UNIFORMED

El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF) Maria Bos, Corrections Specialist II

Maria has taken a lead role in improving the efficiency of the disciplinary division at EDCF. As a Corrections Specialist II, Maria implemented a process by which inmate disciplinary hearings can be conducted by telephone. Her suggestion to move to double-sided printing reduced the amount of paper used for the division's records by 40 percent.

Known as someone who volunteers to fill any area of need, Maria has steadily been promoted since becoming a Corrections Officer in 2000. She also served as a Corrections Counselor II for the North Unit until she was promoted to her current position in 2007. Maria is the 2009 Kansas Department of Corrections Uniformed Employee of the Year.

Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF) Troy M. Frimmel, Corrections Officer II

Troy is admired for his calm demeanor and his fairness in his interactions with ECF staff and inmates. Since 1989, Troy has served in several capacities including as Tool Control Officer, a General Utility Detail Supervisor, a backup Key Control Officer and Relief Armorer. Currently, he also serves as a Staff Development Faculty Member and is the Special Operations and Response Team Commander. With an ability to remain composed in all situations, Troy has never wavered in his commitment to ensuring the safety of staff, inmates and the general public.

Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) Gary Hook, Corrections Officer II

Gary began as a Corrections Officer with HCF in 1987. He transferred to the position of Inside General Utilities Supervisor in 2001 when he also assumed the duties of horticulturalist for the Central Unit. Gary's dedication encourages his crew to tackle tasks beyond their assigned duties. Gary is known for completing 12 hours of work in an eight-hour day.

Norton Correctional Facility (NCF) Bob Husted, Corrections Officer II

During Bob's 21 years with NCF, he has served as a Special Operations and Response Team Officer, Key Control Sergeant, backup Tool Control Sergeant and Armory Officer. Bob is known for his work on NCF's key and lock control system that has served as a model for other facilities. He is often called upon to assist with security audits in this specialized area. Charged with training new staff in key control, Bob continues to sharpen in his own skills in his free time by completing courses on locksmithing and locking systems.

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Winfield Correctional Facility (WCF)
Keith McLaughlin, Corrections Specialist I

Since joining WCF in 1994, Keith has always maintained positive relationships with WCF staff and inmates. He is an original Special Operations and Response Team member and serves as a Field Training Officer, Chemical Agents instructor, Baton instructor, Stress Awareness trainer and a Disciplinary Hearing Officer. He also is a Key Control Officer and an active member of the WCF Wellness Committee. Keith has twice served as an acting lieutenant to provide essential coverage during extended staff absences. He is dedicated to the uniform and the Department of Corrections.

Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility (LCMHF)
Brian Pivonka, Corrections Specialist I

Brian was among the first class of Corrections Officers when he joined LCMHF in 1991. Now as a Corrections Specialist I, Brian is the Detail Officer for the West Unit. Brian has always demonstrated a positive attitude and willingness to help others. No matter the requested task, Brian responds, "I'll take care of it."

Topeka Correctional Facility
Brian Scharf, Corrections Specialist I

Brian has worked at four Kansas correctional facilities during the last nine years. Brian now brings his knowledge to TCF where he is a member of the Emergency Preparedness Team and Special Operations and Response Team. He has worked on all three of TCF's shifts and successfully supervises a diverse group of people. Brian is always professional and continually demonstrates a commitment to the field of corrections.

Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF)
John Thomas, Corrections Officer I

Since 1994, John has worked in nearly every position at LCF and at all security levels. In a typical day, John may begin in the minimum-custody unit and end the day in the maximum unit because of his dependability and his knowledge of facility operations. As a Corrections Officer, John maintains a positive attitude and is always fair in holding inmates accountable for their actions.

NON-UNIFORMED

El Dorado Correctional Facility
Jerry Clark

For nearly 20 years, Jerry Clark has demonstrated his commitment to EDCF through his dependability and hard work, first, as a Corrections Officer and, now, as a Facility Maintenance Supervisor. In one year, Jerry and his crews completed more than 13,000 hours of community service work that benefitted the facility and surrounding

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community. Among the projects tackled by the crew were building a handicapped accessible playground, building a seniors center and donating nearly 5,000 hours of work to the Kansas Department of Wildlife.

Topeka Correctional Facility
Kylah Foote

Since joining TCF three years ago, Kylah Foote has become the hub for the Human Resource Office. She is always willing to go outside the realm of her duties to help staff find answers. Whether helping staff members transition in to retirement, assisting the spouse of a retiree or providing comfort to the families of a deceased staff member, Kylah goes above and beyond.

Kansas Correctional Industries (KCI)
Betty Garcia

Betty brings to life KCI's mission of providing meaningful work opportunities for inmates. As the Clothing Division's supervisor, Betty has increased the average number of employed inmates in the clothing division and actively seeks to employ physically challenged inmates. Betty, who has been with the Department for nearly 20 years, remains tireless in her work.

Hutchinson Correctional Facility
Jack Karriker

For more than two decades, Jack's professionalism and discipline have aided Facility Design at HCF. During his tenure in the engineering office, Jack has kept HCF and other state correctional facilities up-to-date with building and safety codes. He has saved the Department of Corrections thousands of dollars by drawing up many renovations and other projects. His knowledge, willingness to go beyond his assigned duties and his attention to deadlines have made him invaluable.

Southern Parole Region
Kylee Kelley, Parole Officer I, Wichita Parole Office

Parole Officer Kylee Kelley has excelled in working the Butler County caseload since she joined the Wichita Parole Office in 2006. She has served as a role model in meeting this often difficult and time consuming caseload. Kylee, who started as a Corrections Officer at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, continues to improve her understanding of her job and has proven to be a dedicated employee.

Norton Correctional Facility
Teresa Kultgen

In her 11 years with the NCF, Teresa moved from an administrative assistant position to business manager at the facility's former east unit. She continually demonstrated her adaptability by taking on several roles including managing the inmate canteen and

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serving as the liaison for the facility's Institutional Parole Officer. She also led special events planning at the east unit. She is a member of the NCF Crisis Intervention Team and a founding member of the East Unit's Dog Rescue program. She has moved to NCF's reentry unit where she continues to display a commitment to her work. Teresa was unable to join us today.

Northern Parole Region

Judy Long, Parole Officer I, Kansas City Parole Office

As a parole officer, Judy has established herself as a committed, hardworking team member during her three-year tenure. She is willing to assist her fellow parole officers with any task and she is creative in developing ways to motivate offender success. Judy is a "Thinking for a Change" trainer and was instrumental in the development of employment services for offenders in the Kansas City Parole Office. Judy is well respected by her peers, offenders and those in the community she works along side.

Ellsworth Correctional Facility

Joseph E. Pruitt

Joseph began his career with the Department of Corrections as a corrections officer at Hutchinson Correctional Facility in 1987. A year later, he transferred to Ellsworth Correctional Facility where he has been promoted through the ranks to his current position of Staff Development Specialist I. He also assists with Basic Corrections Officer Training when needed. Known for encouraging teamwork among his staff, Joe is admired for his ability to incorporate new concepts and technology into his curriculum.

Lansing Correctional Facility

Harold Sass

Information Consultant Harold Sass has championed LCF's efforts to find affordable new technologies to improve productivity and efficiency. He has delivered many creative solutions including helping to deploy electronic logbooks to make the process quicker and less costly. He extended the longevity of older PCs by connecting the PCs to central servers, enabling the older PCs to run newer software. His enthusiasm for his job has never diminished in his 10 years with the Department. He is a true asset to the facility and the Department. Harold is the 2009 Kansas Department of Corrections Non-Uniformed Employee of the Year.

Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility

Allan Smith

As the Institutional Parole Officer, Allan strives to find new and innovative resources for the special needs population he serves. He ensures that all inmates play an active role in preparing for their release and works to educate staff about the release planning process. Allan, who began as a Corrections Officer in 1991, has a good rapport with staff and inmates because they know he strives to see that each stakeholder in the process is successful.

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Winfield Correctional Facility
Teresa Stalnaker

Senior Administrative Assistant Teresa Stalnaker began with WCF in 2007. She has demonstrated the skill set and flexibility needed to adapt to her ever-changing job responsibilities. In the last year, she has become the back up staff member for the Procurement Officer and the Accounting Specialist in addition to being the back up staff for the Inmate Canteen Storekeeper. Her excellent communication skills enable Teresa to represent the Department well in her dealings with staff, inmates and the general public.

Central Office
Tina Waldron

As a Program Consultant for Community Corrections, Tina has consistently demonstrated strong leadership capabilities. Under her guidance, Community Corrections successfully implemented evidence-based practices. This effort has been recognized nationally by such organizations as the National Institute of Corrections. Tina also has played a critical role in the development of a new grant application process under the Risk Reduction Initiative.

CONTRACT

Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility
Marlene Abel - Correct Care Solutions

During her 11 years at LCMHF, Marlene has always worked to ensure that all inmates receive timely and appropriate care. As the Utilization Management/Infection Control Nurse, Marlene aids in managing the cleanliness of the facility to prevent infections. Her calm demeanor is often critical in helping resolve tense situations that arise in serving inmates with special needs. She maintains licensures above what is required for her position and maintains positive working relationships with healthcare workers in the community.

Topeka Correctional Facility
Alan Beck - Greenbush

As the vocational cabinetry instructor at TCF since 2007, Alan has always worked for the betterment of his program and his students. He has implemented nationally standardized training programs into his curriculum and gained recognition for the kitchen cabinetry and furniture his students have built for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' cabin program. Alan could not be here today. His supervisor is accepting Alan's certificate on his behalf.

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Northern Parole Region
Lucy Brown - Avenues to Recovery

In 2007, Lucy became a contract treatment provider for the Department's 4th time DUI program. As a provider in the Kansas City area, Lucy has shown unprecedented care for the well being of offenders and the safety of the community. She is given some of the most high-risk cases in the Johnson County area because of the success offenders experience under the counseling.

Lansing Correctional Facility
Elizabeth DeHaven - Correct Care Solutions

Elizabeth has been a psychiatric nurse serving LCF since 2002. She consistently provides professional service in a pleasant manner and maintains a positive attitude. She coordinates the scheduling for two practitioners as well as for herself, answers numerous staff questions daily and handles crisis situations effectively. She is a solid member of the team and an anchor for staff and inmates alike.

Norton Correctional Facility
Diana Helms - ARAMARK

Diana runs NCF's staff dining services. Through the "In 2 Work" program, Diana employs up to nine inmates who learn marketable skills in a restaurant-like setting while serving facility staff. She also assists with food preparation and supervision duties in the mail food service area. Additionally, she conducts health and sanitation inspections and willingly fills in during staff shortages. She is always positive and is a great asset to the facility.

Hutchinson Correctional Facility
Duane Krueger - Greenbush

For two decades, Duane has worked for education contractors with the Department of Corrections. Originally hired as a welding instructor, Duane has assisted in numerous renovations and projects where his welding skills were needed throughout HCF. Today, Duane oversees all vocational programs statewide for Greenbush. Duane is well known for his loyalty to his staff and his dedicated service to correctional education.

Ellsworth Correctional Facility
Vickie Lanter - Correct Care Solutions

Vickie has been a nurse with ECF for nine years. Vickie is known for being a team player with a great sense of humor. Whenever called upon for help, Vickie is quick to volunteer including working extra shifts. She is a true professional who keeps her composure in all situations and is greatly admired by staff and inmates for her work.

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Southern Parole Region
Officer Doug Mitchell - Wichita Police Department

As the Re-entry Police Liaison for the past year, Officer Doug Mitchell has been available at a moment's notice when case managers have had offenders in crisis. Both Parole Officers and Victim Service staff have commended Officer Mitchell for his help in gathering information that aided them in doing their jobs. He developed a system for case managers to gather data regarding an offender's detainers and financial obligation information which could then be built into an offender's pre-release plan. He is a member of the accountability panel and has provided advice to offenders. Whether making a community presentation or assisting with a home visit, Officer Mitchell's passion for his work shows in everything he does. Officer Mitchell is the 2009 Kansas Department of Corrections Contractor Employee of the Year.

KDOC Central Office
Dr. Mary Redmon - Kansas University Physicians, Inc.

Dr. Mary Redmon has worked within the Kansas Department of Corrections since 2005. As the Department's clinical leader, Dr. Redmon has guided the Department and Correct Care Solutions to a very successful year. She meets weekly with CCS staff to provide extra attention to difficult cases and has a community of experts she calls on to find solutions for crisis cases. She is an outstanding representative for the Department of Corrections and she is a tireless advocate for the inmate population.

Community Corrections
Crystal Sprague – Wyandotte County Community Corrections

For nearly a year, Crystal has served as the Criminal Justice Programs Administrator for Wyandotte County Community Corrections. Crystal spearheaded the SB 14 grant writing team which enabled the agency to start new programs as well as significantly improve existing programs. Under Crystal's leadership, the agency has embraced evidenced-based practices and strives to educate the public about the agency's efforts. She also has improved communication between the District Attorney's office and other community programs. Prior to her current position, Crystal served as the Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator.

Winfield Correctional Facility
Tina Thames – Correct Care Solutions

Promoted to Medical Records Clerk in 2007, Tina is always anxious to tackle new tasks. She is conscientious and thorough in all that she does which has included being a member of the team that implemented the current peer review procedures. She serves as a role model whose positive attitude is appreciated by facility staff and other contract agents.

El Dorado Correctional Facility

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Tom Wedl - ARAMARK

Tom has been a great representative on behalf of ARAMARK during his five years at EDCF. He assisted with the task of suspending operations at the EDCF-East Unit while ensuring that meal service was never interrupted. Tom also conducts several inmate training programs. His teamwork approach, along with his attention to detail, set him apart from others especially when the facility has experienced lockdowns due to emergencies.

VOLUNTEER

Topeka Correctional Facility Theresa Carter

Once housed as an inmate at Topeka Correctional Facility, Theresa returned in 2002 as an ordained minister with the City of Light Church. She wanted to share her experiences about how she overcame obstacles in her own life. She provides church services for the medium/maximum compound and, until recently, provided services for inmates in the Therapeutic Community Program. She is a positive example for the inmates and shows that they too can also be successful upon release.

Northern Parole Region John Casner

John has never said “no” when it comes to helping the Department of Corrections or offenders. John has volunteered to assist the Kansas City Parole Office, the Wyandotte County Re-entry Program and Lansing Correctional Facility. He has been instrumental in helping provide employment services that included helping to craft resumes, holding mock interviews and presenting workforce center options to hundreds of inmates.

Ellsworth Correctional Facility Pastor John Curtis and Family

Since 2001, Pastor John Curtis and his family have led the Ellsworth Correctional Facility’s Christian Worship Service one Sunday each month. Their ministry is always well received by both staff and inmates because they have a unique gift of offering hope and encouragement. Pastor Curtis has stated that his reason for volunteering is “...to minister God’s words to the lost, to let them know they can make it.”

Hutchinson Correctional Facility Bob Deffenbaugh

At 83 years old, Bob’s energy and dedication serve as inspiration to the staff and inmates at Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Each Monday, Bob meets with inmates in the Chaplain’s office to assist with personal issues and respond to inmate requests to staff. Bob also works during the week at all three HCF units supporting religious education, bible study and Catholic Mass. Bob has volunteered at HCF since 2003.

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Norton Correctional Facility
Sharon Leiker

Sharon began volunteering with Norton Correctional Facility in 2007. She has assisted with the development of the Stop Violence call-out and she fill in as the minimum and medium call-out leader when needed She has assisted with several fund raisers to help stock a local food pantry for the needy. She also is the back-up coordinator for The Haven, an overnight hostel for inmate families. She is well regarded by the inmates, staff and the community because she is so giving of her time and skills. Sharon Leiker is the 2009 Kansas Department of Corrections Volunteer of the Year.

El Dorado Correctional Facility
Rowena (Rene) Moore

For the past two years, Rene has been a Senior Work Experience Project volunteer for El Dorado Correctional Facility. She has contributed hours of assistance to staff in several areas including records, re-entry and RDU. Without her dependability and willingness to offer her professional skills, these areas would face backlogs in preparing documents that are utilized throughout the Department of Corrections.

Southern Parole Region
Barton Prince

Barton is a former corrections officer who began volunteering with the Department of Corrections in 2007. He assists with several activities for the Wichita Parole Office, Sedgwick County Re-entry Program and El Dorado Correctional Facility where he facilitates a money management class. Barton also coordinates workforce development courses and is a member of the Re-entry Program's accountability panel. Barton is always a professional and brings a positive outlook with him in all that he does.

Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility
Ida Fay Smith and Mary Bieberle

In 2008, Ida Fay Smith and Mary Bieberle distributed nearly 5,000 greeting cards to inmates at Larned's Central and West units. The two friends run the facility's greeting card ministry to distribute donated cards that inmates can mail to loved ones. Both ensure that cards are distributed in a timely fashion while taking a special pride in selecting the card that will best convey an inmate's message. Mary is unable to join us today.

Lansing Correctional Facility
John Vanzant

John has been a volunteer with Lansing Correctional Facility for 14 years. He has been devoted to passing on his knowledge of leather crafting to inmates in the Fine Arts

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Society. He teaches by the philosophy that if one can fill his free time with positive activity – that person is less likely to get into trouble. He has served as an important role model to inmates through the years.

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STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, Kansas Department of Corrections employees contribute to the public safety by exercising safe and effective control of approximately 9000 inmates and by managing more than 4,000 offenders on post incarceration supervision while actively encouraging and assisting them to become law abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, Correctional employees strive to fulfill their vision of "A Safer Kansas through Effective Correctional Services"; and

WHEREAS, Correctional employees perform their mission in an environment which poses a potential risk to personal safety, and must possess self-confidence and effective interpersonal skills in order to accomplish their mission; and

WHEREAS, Correctional employees strive to manage the correctional system with integrity; and

WHEREAS, Correctional employees respect the rule of law and the rights of individuals—victims, staff, offenders and all those involved in the criminal justice process; and

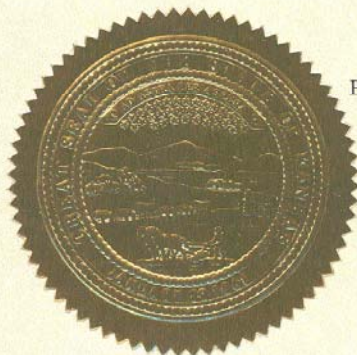
WHEREAS, Correctional employees assist in informing the public regarding correctional issues, policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, The contributions of correctional employees are matters deserving of sincere public appreciation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the week of May 3-9, 2009 as

Kansas Correctional Employees Week

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 1st day of
May, A.D. 2009



BY THE GOVERNOR:

Mark Parkinson

Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State

Jae
Assistant Secretary of State